17
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ダイヤのA
エース

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Ace of Diamond

地区予選決勝進出を果たした青道高校の
絶対的エース・成宮 鳴を擁する稲城実業
最高の設備と環境で才能を極限まで
超名門高校相手に沢村達はどう挑む…!?
夢の舞台まで、あと一つ‥‥!
誰よりも汗を流し、経験と努力を積んできた
決勝直前、青道、稲城実業が互いに闘志を燃やす!!

17
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

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●週刊少年マガジン2009年第18号～第27号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは
一切関係ありません。

CHAPTER 139 / WHAT LIES AHEAD...

むりっ
いえー

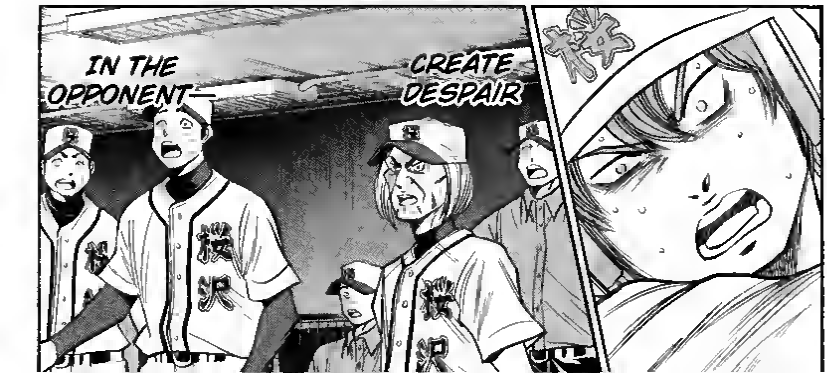
H
箱 0005
一 二 三 四 五
校 000

TIME
0:58
S B O
1 2 2
稲 0 0 0 8 3
桜 0 0 0 0
IT'S SETTLED...
TOKY

IN THE 4TH INNING, HARADA-KUN'S THREE-RUN HIT... SAKURAZAWA WAS SO TENSED UP THAT THEY FINALLY SNAPPED COMPLETELY—
YEAH ...
BUT IN THE END, HE USED TOO MUCH POWER—
WITHOUT BEING AFFECTED BY HIS TEAM-MATES' ERRORS, NAGAO-KUN STILL PITCHED A STEADFAST GAME...
WHAT'S MORE TERRI-FYING IS...
IT WILL AFFECT HIS PITCH...
FOR A KNUCKLEBALLER, IF HIS FEE-LINGS WAVER EVEN A BIT,

NARUMIYA -KUN'S PITCHES—
THE ABILITY TO AFFECT THE RHYTHM OF THE OPPONENT'S DEFENSE.
1
SETTLE THE GAME—

AT THIS RATE, IT WILL END BEFORE WE CAN DO ANYTHING.
TOSHIBA


IN THE OPPONENT—
CREATE DESPAIR
松沢

TOKYO
THAT RE-
LENTLESS
PITCHING
WILL
SET THE
PACE FOR
HIS TEAM'S
OFFENSE—
...
Uniben

THE PRESENCE OF THIS MAN...
WILL FURTHER ENHANCE THE STRENGTH
OF A TALENTED TEAM LIKE INASHIRO TECHNICAL.

STONE
1
THIS KIND OF PERSON IS A TRUE ACE...!!

SUPPOR-
TING HIS
TEAM—
...
THE
UNBENDING
PILLAR
SEIKO
ASHIRO
Coca-Cola
SHIBA
TOYOTA
GAME
SET—!!

11-0, THE GAME'S CALLED AFTER THE 5TH INNING...
TOSHIBA
KIRU
DISPLAYING THEIR OVER-WHELMING STRENGTH,
INASHIRO
INASHIRO TECHNICAL ADVANCES TO THE FINALS!
BOW!
THANKS FOR THE GAME!!

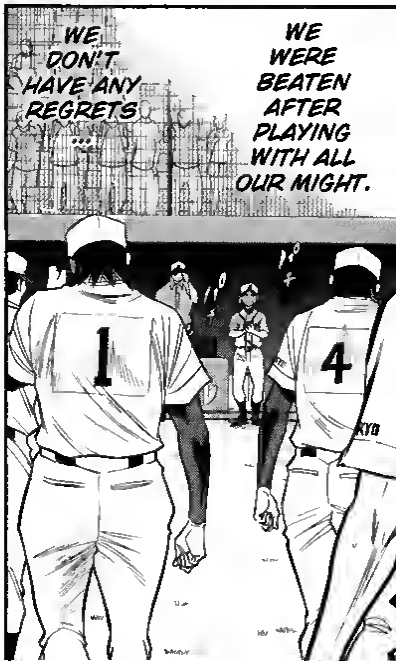
HEY!
YOU CAN GO BACK WITH YOUR HEADS HIGH!!

YOU LOST TO THE BEST TEAM IN JAPAN THIS SUMMER!
I'LL REPRIMAND HIM LATER
SORRY
Bye!
BEST IN JAPAN... RIGHT...

IT'S... NO WONDER THAT WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THEM...
桜
WE'RE NO MATCH FOR THEM.
桜沢

SFX: CLAP CLAP
WITH THIS

WE CAN COM-PLETELY GIVE UP ON OUR DREAM...


WE WERE BEATEN AFTER PLAYING WITH ALL OUR MIGHT.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS...
1
4

パチ
パチ
SFX: CLAP CLAP
パチ
パチ
パチ
GIVE UP ON IT—
...
パチ

YEAH!!
MEI~!
INASHIRO'S THE BEST!
NICE GAME!
MEI-CHA~N!
INASA-SA~N!
ONE MORE WIN! GOOD LUCK—!!
KAZU-MIYA!
GO TO KOSHIEN AGAIN THIS YEAR!

Yay!
HEI~~~!!
WE WILL WIN~!!
WE WILL DEFINITELY WIN~!!

Ace of Diamond

WE WILL WIN～!!
WE WILL DEFINITE-LY WIN ～!!
SFX: FLAME
ゴゴゴ
ダイヤのA
エース

STOP YOUR MAD YAPPING!
You moron!
SAWAMU-RAAA!!
SFX. SHOCKED
WE REMEMBER WHAT HAP-PENED LAST YEAR...
WE'RE BOILING WITH ANGER INSIDE...

S-SORRY SPITZ-SEN
WHO~~ ARE YOU CALLING SPITZ!
DON'T YAP JUN

TOSHIBA
KIRIN
新聞社
東京都高校野球
7
2
西東京

...
HMPH!

THE WINNING TEAM ADVANCES TO KOUSHIEN...
ISN'T THIS THE BEST STAGE TO AVENGE LAST YEAR.
青道
TOKYO
青道
OOH !!

THE HURDLE BEFORE US FROM LAST YEAR
HAS GOTTEN HIGHER... AND STRONGER...

THE CHAMPION, INASHIRO TECH, AIMING TO RETAIN THEIR TITLE...
OR SEIDOU HIGH, SEEKING TO AVENGE LAST YEAR'S DEFEAT AND GO TO KOUSHIEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 6 YEARS...

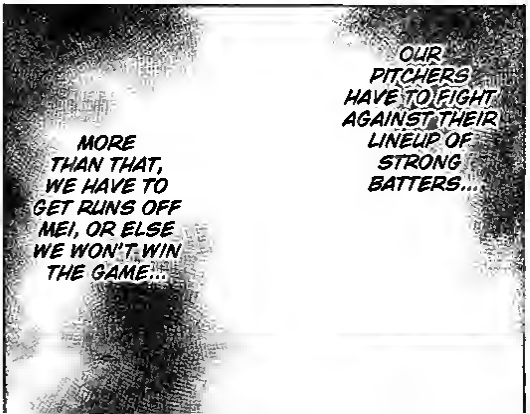
NOTE THAT... THE FINAL GAME WILL COMMENCE AT 1 PM THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
ALL MATCHES FOR THE DAY ARE OVER.
SEIDOU HIGH VS. INASHIRO TECH.
THE CURTAINS TO THE FINAL BATTLE FOR WEST TOKYO REPRESENTATIVE HAVE OPENED—
CSK
TOYOTA
KIRIN
Uniden

CHAPTER 140 / FUSE

FOUND IT! FOUND THE TOILET!
HURRY UP!

WATCH YOUR WORDS!
SHUT UP —!! YOU TALK TOO MUCH!
YOU GUYS LET LOOSE TOO EASILY (LAUGH)

WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN...THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...


OUR PITCHERS HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR LINEUP OF STRONG BATTERS....
MORE THAN THAT, WE HAVE TO GET RUNS OFF MEI, OR ELSE WE WON'T WIN THE GAME...

ANYWAY SEEMS LIKE IT'LL BE A TOUGH BATTLE...
OOHH! ISN'T THAT MIYUKI!!
MIYUKI!!
WHAT.. YOU GUYS STILL HAVEN'T GONE BACK?
YOUR ADVANCE INTO THE FINALS WAS ALREADY DECIDED,
SO YOU CAME TO WATCH US FROM THE STANDS —!!

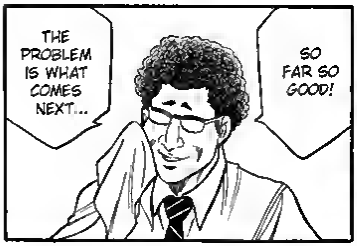
WELL?
DID YOU GET ANY GOOD DATA?
NOTHING NO DATA FROM THAT PERFECT PITCHING...
Hahaww...
NASHIRO
HURRY IT UP, GUYS. .
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO THE OPPONENTS WE ARE BATTLING THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...
OH YEAH, WE HAVEN'T MET SINCE THAT TIME?
WELL, SEEMS SO...
NASHIRO
東京

I'M NOT A REGULAR! SORRY ABOUT THAT!
Shut up!
HUH? DID YOU PLAY IN THE GAME?
YOU TRAITOR!
IN THE END, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO TURNED DOWN THE INVITATION FROM INASHIRO TECH AND WENT TO SEIDOU INSTEAD!
KAZUYA...
EVEN WITHOUT YOU, OUR TEAM THIS YEAR IS THE STRONGEST!
INASHIRO
YABE KOUJI
(2ND YEAR)

THE CHANCE TO PLAY AT KOUSHIEN IS SOMETHING WE WON'T GIVE UP ON!
INASHIRO
INASHIRO
YOU WILL REGRET
NOT JOINING OUR TEAM.
IN 10 YEARS IN 20 YEARS FOREVER

HUH!? THAT WHITE-HAIRED...?
SEE YOU AT THE GAME!
YEAH.
W...WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THOSE GUYS!!
NOTHING
HOW CAN IT BE NOTHING! THEY ARE OUR OPPONENTS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!!
GET BACK ON THE BUS, EVERYONE IS WAITING...
COULD... COULD IT BE... YOU LEAKED MY INFORMATION TO THE ENEMY!?
NO WAY!

野球場
総合グラウンド


THE PROBLEM IS WHAT COMES NEXT...
SO FAR SO GOOD!

WELL~
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ADVANCEMENT TO THE FINALS.

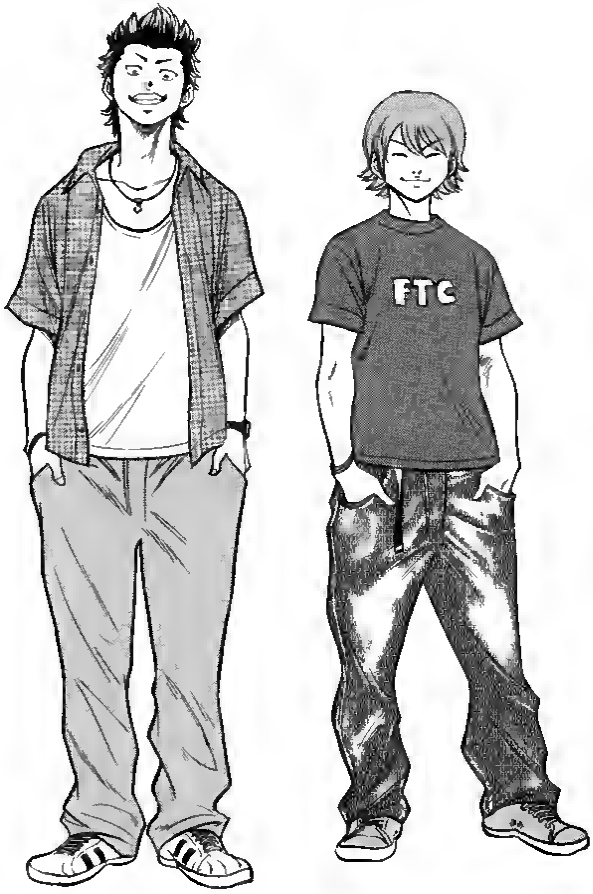
JUST ANOTHER WIN RIGHT?
ニヤ
ニヤ

IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THEY MAKE IT OUT TO BE...
FRANKLY SPEAKING, OUR OPPONENT IS STRONG
EH?
IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE NO OPENINGS
IN ONE YEAR, HE HAS BECOME EXTREMELY CONSISTENT.
LAST YEAR'S NARUMIYA WAS STILL ERRATIC.

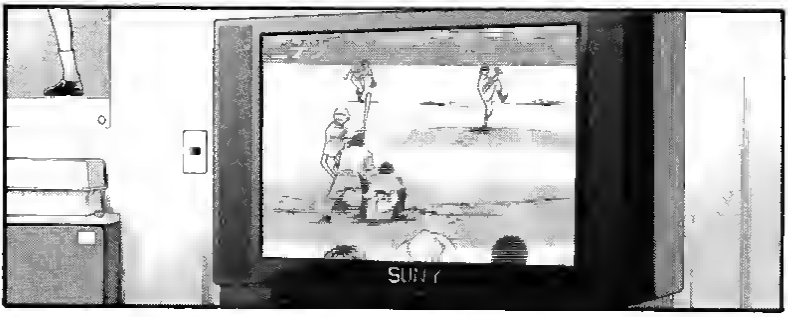
THEY CAN'T WAIT FOR IT ..THE MATCH...
THESE KIDS ARE REALLY PASSION-ATE
HA HA
THEIR GAME JUST ENDED, YET...
SHOULDN'T YOU STOP THEM?
EH?

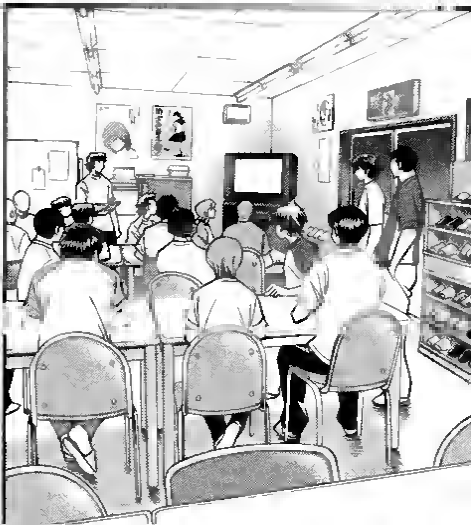
OUR OPPONENTS
AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE EVOLVED...

CHAPTER 141 / IN THE DORMS...



青心寮


SUN



IN SHORT, HE ONLY PITCHED 4 CHANGEUPS IN THIS GAME...
AND LASTLY, HIS PITCHES ARE MAINLY BUILT AROUND FASTBALLS.
3 FORKBALLS, 7 SLIDERS,
SO IT'S A CROSSFIRE INSIDE AT THE BATTER'S CHEST...
HE USED THAT PITCH EFFECTIVELY...
SUNY
SFX: SHOCKED
ピクッ
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT, HE THREW THAT PITCH BECAUSE HE SAW WE WERE WATCHING...
SAKURAZAKA'S BATTING LINEUP WAS WEAK,

WHAT!?
OI, OI.. THAT ONE YOU PITCHED IN OUR GAME TODAY..
NOW WHERE DID I HEAR THAT BEFORE?
CRO... CROSSFIRE...

THAT IS A CROSSFIRE.
A PITCH TRAJECTORY EXCLUSIVE TO SOUTHPAW PITCHERS
MOVING DIAGONALLY TOWARDS THE INSIDE AT THE BATTER'S CHEST
OOHH ...
COULD IT BE YOU PITCH WITHOUT KNOWING IT?
I...IDIOT!!
IT'S "CROSS FIRE"!
THE FIREBALL HAS BEEN MY DECIDING PITCH FOR A WHILE...
EVEN IF I EXPLAIN IT TO HIM NOW, HE WON'T UNDER-STAND.
WELL... THAT IS NOT JUST ANY ORDINARY CROSSFIRE.
THAT'S RIGHT!
wahaha
THEN?
WHAT DOES THE ONLY MAN TO GET A DOUBLE OFF NARUMIYA LAST YEAR THINK?

.....
AND ALSO PLAYERS WHO ARE ABLE TO HIT TO FIT THE SITUATION.
WE HAVE OUR 1ST AND 2ND BATTERS, WHO ARE ABLE TO DISTRACT OUR OPPONENTS..
MORE THAN ANYTHING, ALL MEMBERS HAVE TO BAT WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT!!

RIGHT NOW, WE CAN DEFINITELY DEFEAT NARUMIYA!
青道

TO THE LAST MOMENT, FIGHT WITH OUR OWN STYLE OF BASEBALL.
OSHAAA!

CHRIS! MIYUKI!!
NEXT IS—
INDEED, EVEN IF NARUMIYA-KUN IS OUR OPPONENT, SOMEHOW, I STILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR BATTERS.
WE WANT TO HAVE A PITCHERS MEETING AFTER THIS...
WILL YOU JOIN US AS WELL?
4/7
SEIDO
SAWAMURA, FURUYA, LET'S GO.
I DIDN'T GET TO PITCH.
YES, SIR!
SINCE ALL THREE PITCHERS GAVE UP A RUN TOO Y,
WE'LL BE HAVING AN EVALUATION MEETING.
TANBA-SAN ON HIS OWN...
...ALRIGHT

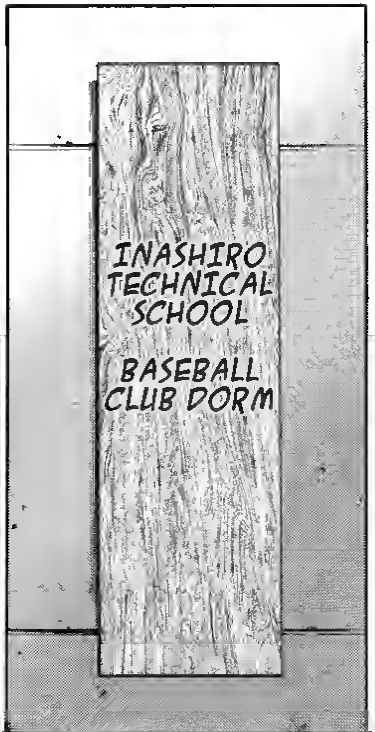
HEY! MANAGER!
THEN WE'LL BE HEADING OFF...
SURE, I WILL JOIN YOU.
KADO! I WANT TO WATCH THE VIDEOS A LITTLE MORE
OH! THOUSAND PAPER CRANES!
SOME-HOW IT SEEMED TO HAVE GROWN.
THIS IS FROM THE BAND MEM-BERS!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU FOR 2 MORE DAYS.
WE'LL FIGHT TO OUR DYING BREATH!

NOT JUST FOR THE NEXT 2 DAYS JUN!
WHAT ABOUT AFTER THAT...
SHUT UP! IT'S ONLY FOR THE MOMENT!!
SORRY
BUT I SAID IT BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A POOR TALKER!
IN FACT, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO SAY THAT.
I'LL DEFINITELY SHOW THEM WHAT I'VE GOT!!
WE HAVE OUR 1ST AND 2ND BATTERS, WHO ARE ABLE TO DISTRACT OUR OPPONENTS!
(CAPTAIN'S SPEECH)
HEHE...
AHH... RYOU-SAN, LATER...

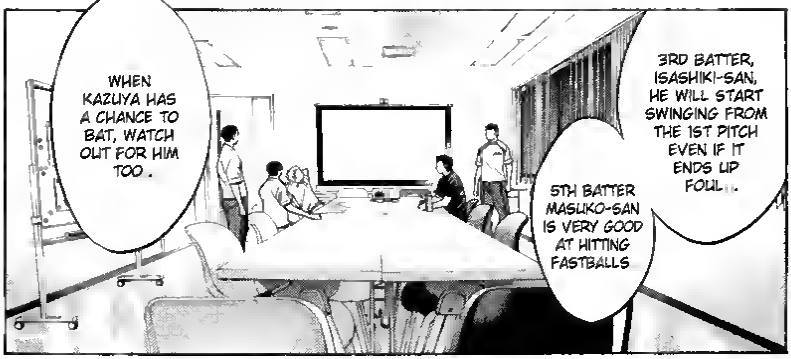
Please arrange the slippers
!
ヒョコ…
RYOU -SAN ...!?

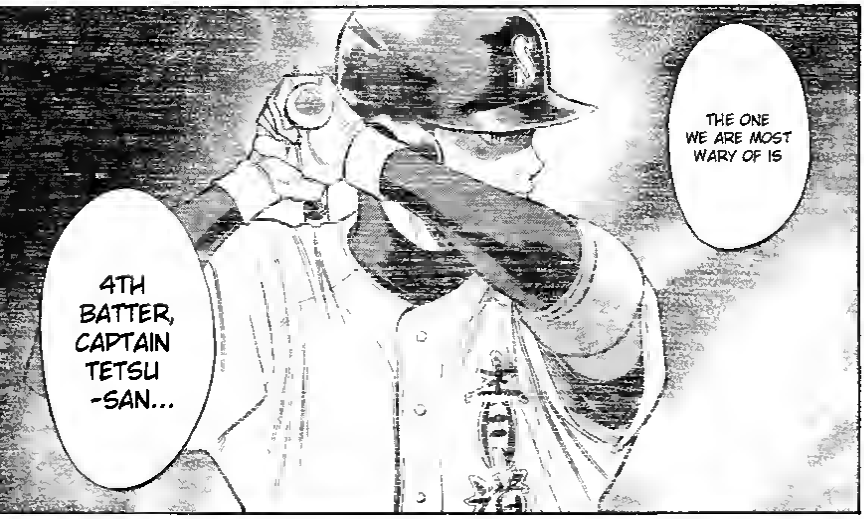
SFX. YAWN
くぁ～

I'M TIRED～
IT'S ONLY 8—
CAN I SLEEP NOW?


INASHIRO TECHNICAL SCHOOL
BASEBALL CLUB DORM

IN THE LAST THREE GAMES, THEIR AVERAGE WAS 7.7 RUNS
THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE OPPONENTS WE'VE FOUGHT AGAINST. THEIR BATTING IS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO REMEMBER SEIDOU'S BATTING LINEUP PROPERLY
HMPH!
IF WE THINK OF THEM AS A PRELIMINARY TO KOUSHIEN, THEY ARE THE BEST OPPONENTS.
WATCH OUT FOR 1ST BATTER KURAMOCHI'S RUNNING SPEED, BUT IF I DON'T LET HIM GET ON BASE, THEN HE'S NOT THAT FRIGHTENING...
THIS CAREFREE ATTITUDE...
THE SCARY ONE IS 2ND BATTER KOMINATO-SAN HE IS ABLE TO HANDLE ANY KIND OF PITCH.

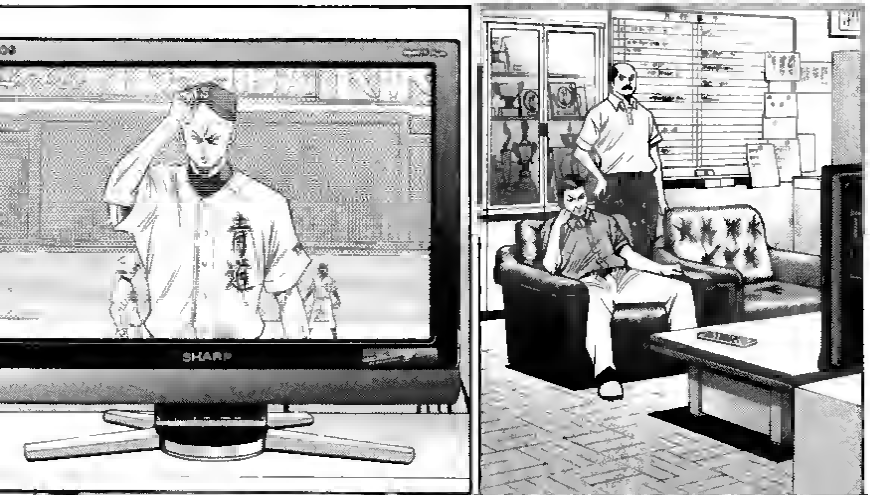

WHEN KAZUYA HAS A CHANCE TO BAT, WATCH OUT FOR HIM TOO.
3RD BATTER, ISASHIKI-SAN, HE WILL START SWINGING FROM THE 1ST PITCH EVEN IF IT ENDS UP FOUL.
5TH BATTER MASUKO-SAN IS VERY GOOD AT HITTING FASTBALLS


4TH BATTER, CAPTAIN TETSU -SAN...
THE ONE WE ARE MOST WARY OF IS

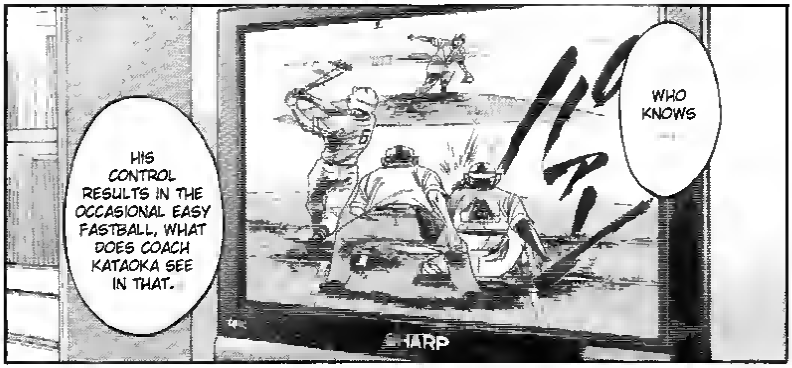
IS THERE ANY-THING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?
...
IF WE CAN SUPPRESS THAT GUY COMPLETELY, THEN THE ODDS ARE IN OUR FAVOUR...
LAST YEAR, HE GOT A PERFECT HIT OFF ME.

OKAAY
THAT'S ENOUGH
GET A PROPER MASSAGE BEFORE SLEEP
THAT MEI...HOW LONG HAS HE KNOWN ABOUT SEIDOU'S BATTING LINE-UP?
HE'S EVEN FULLY GRASPED THEIR CHARACTERISTICS
TOUGH LUCK
I'M ALREADY USED TO IT!
HE CONSIDERS ANYTHING ELSE APART FROM THAT TO BE MY JOB
HE'S ONLY INTERESTED IN THE BATTERS HE WANTS TO FACE OFF AGAINST.
H2O

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU WOULD HAVE DONE LAST YEAR ...
EVEN SO... SEEMS LIKE HE TRIED A LITTLE TO UNDERSTAND MY SIGNS.


SHARP

SO THE STARTER FOR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW HAS TO BE TANBA...
INASHIRO TECH BASEBALL CLUB PRESIDENT
HAYASHIDA MASAYOSHI


WHO KNOWS
HIS CONTROL RESULTS IN THE OCCASIONAL EASY FASTBALL, WHAT DOES COACH KATAOKA SEE IN THAT.
SHARP

RELIEF PITCH-ERS...
I THINK THAT HE'LL MOST LIKELY USE A SERIES OF RELIEF PITCHERS.
THE NICER WAY OF SAYING IT IS THAT THEY HAVE PLENTY OF SKILLED PITCHERS...
HE'S STILL...
EVEN SO, EVER SINCE THAT DEAD-BALL ...

!
ON THE CONTRARY, THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THEY DON'T HAVE ONE PITCHER THEY CAN RELY ON FOR THIS KIND OF MATCH!

THE FIRST ONE WE SHOULD DESTROY
IS THE OPPOSING TEAM'S PITCHING LINEUP.

いな しろ じつ ぎょう せん しゅ ず かん

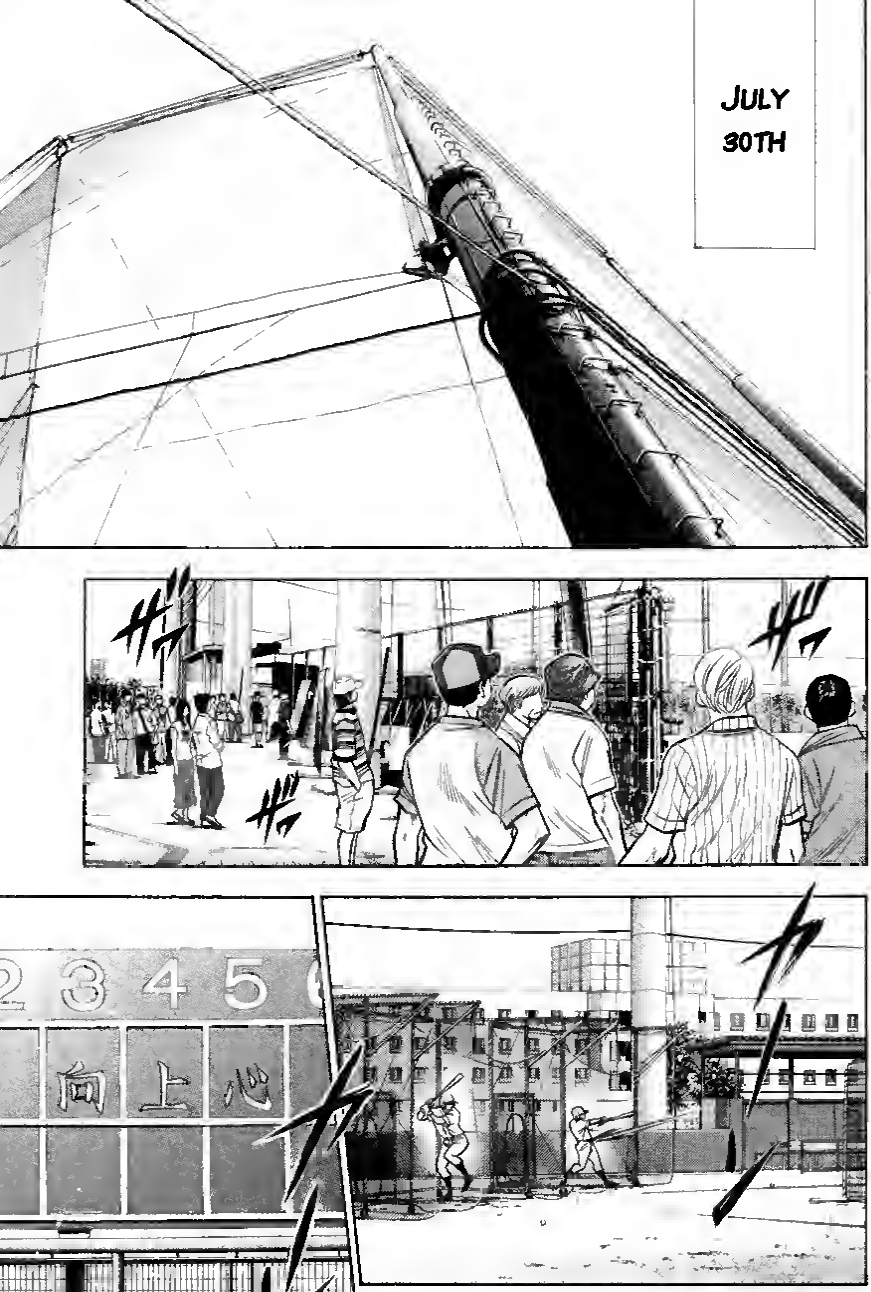
稲城実業選手図鑑

INASHIRO TECHNICAL PLAYER INFORMATION

Vol.2

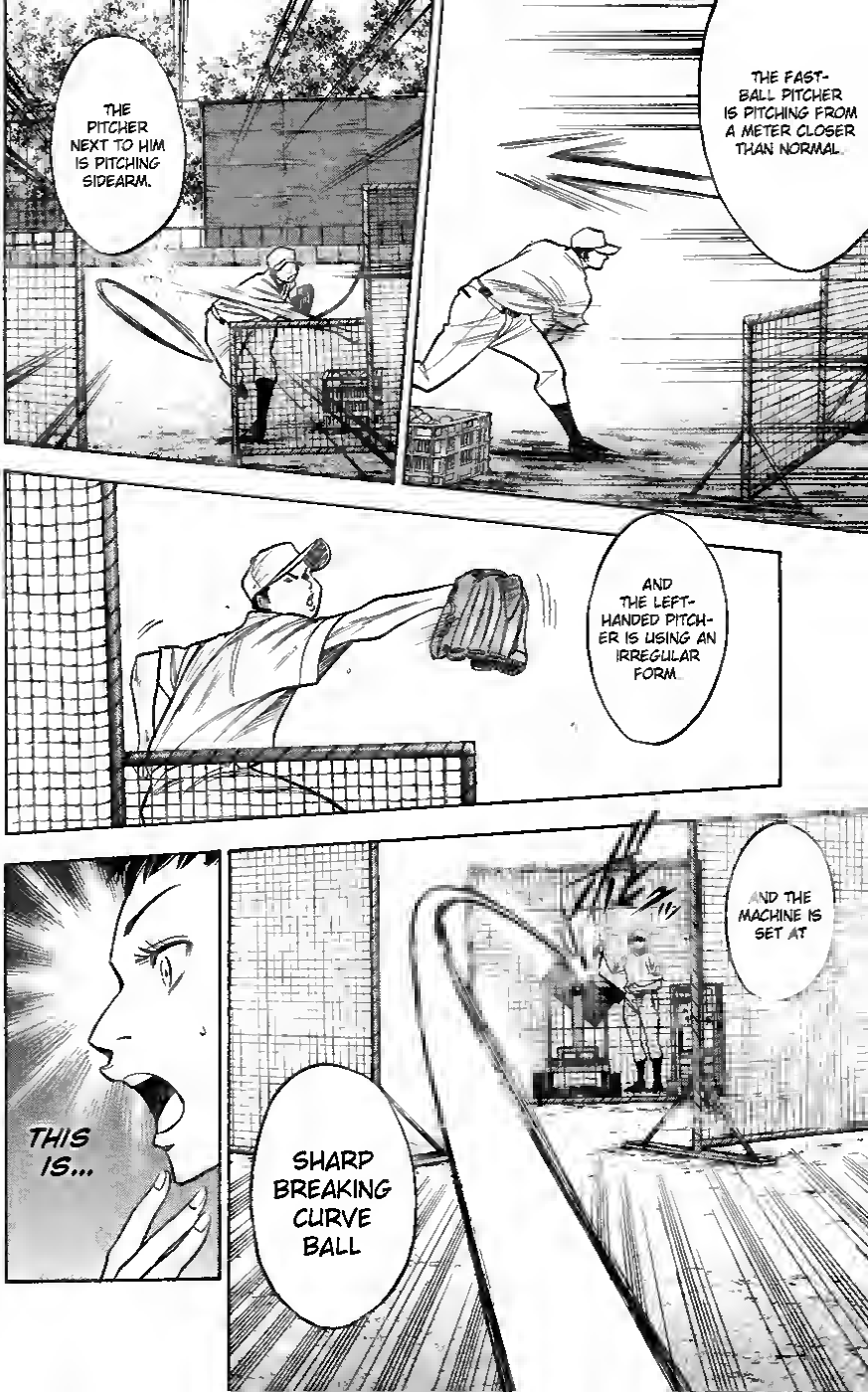
HARADA MASAYOSHI (3RD YEAR)

- PLACE OF BIRTH: TOKYO
- POSITION: CATCHER
- THROWS: RIGHT, BATS: RIGHT
- BLOOD TYPE: O
- INASHIRO BATTER LINEUP MAIN POWER AND CAPTAIN
- ALTHOUGH HE LOOKS MATURE NEXT TO NARUMIYA, HE'S THE TYPE TO SPEAK OUT WHEN NECESSARY
- COMPLETE TRUST FROM HIS JUNIORS (INCLUDING NARUMIYA)
- THE FIRST TIME CATCHING NARUMIYA'S PITCH IN THE BULLPEN, HE MISSED BECAUSE THE BALL BROKE SHARPLY. AFTER THAT, HE CAUGHT NARUMIYA'S PITCHES EVERY DAY. HIS PERSISTENCE CAUSES NARUMIYA TO COMPLAIN.
- HAS THE FLEXIBILITY TO HIT PITCHES FROM ALL CORNERS
- ELDEST OF 3 BROTHERS
- LIKES HISTORY, WATCHES TAIGA DRAMA EVERY WEEK WITHOUT FAIL (EVEN RECORDED ONES)
- ADMIRES WARRIOR: SANADA YUKIMURA


JULY
30TH
2 3 4 5
向上心

CHAPTER 142 / REASON

THE CROWD OF SPECTATORS BEFORE THE FINALS IS AMAZING...
Huge
L.A.M.F.
UWAH
THERE ARE EVEN A BUNCH OF REPORTERS..
AS EXPECTED OF A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL WITH TRADITION
TAKE A LOOK AT THE PITCHERS IN THE BATTING AREA
EH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
..


THE PITCHER NEXT TO HIM IS PITCHING SIDEARM.
THE FAST-BALL PITCHER IS PITCHING FROM A METER CLOSER THAN NORMAL.
AND THE LEFT-HANDED PITCHER IS USING AN IRREGULAR FORM.
AND THE MACHINE IS SET AT
SHARP BREAKING CURVE BALL
THIS IS...

THE 4 SEIDOU PITCHERS ...
青道

ONLY INASHIRO WITH ITS ABUNDANCE OF PLAYERS CAN CONDUCT THIS KIND OF PRACTICE...
LAME
SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE COME UP WITH A PERFECT COUNTER TO SEIDOU'S 4-PITCHER RELAY
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THIS YEAR'S INASHIRO HAS A SET OF PLAYERS WITH STRONG PERSONALITY. .
ゆらら

1ST BATTER CENTER FIELDER
CARLOS
THE LEAD-OFF BATTER WHO SPECIALIZES IN CONFUSING HIS OPPONENTS WITH HIS TRICKY BATTING AND BASE RUNS.
2ND BATTER SHORTSTOP
SHIRAKAWA
SHREWD AT ANYTHING INCLUDING HIT-AND-RUN AND BUNTS
THEN THE 4TH AND 5TH BATTERS ARE
INASHIRO'S GOLDEN BATTERY
3RD BATTER 3RD BASEMAN
YOSHIZAWA
FU
ABLE TO CREATE A CHANCE DUE TO HIS SHARP SWINGS

T/N BATTERY: THE PITCHER/CATCHER TEAM. NOT THE ONES USED TO POWER UP ALARM CLOCKS

CAPTAIN HARADA AND
ACE NARUMIYA
THIS MUST PUT TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON SEIDOU'S PITCHING LINEUP.
CAN THEY SUPPRESS SUCH A LINEUP OF BATTERS?
THEY HAVE YAMAOKA, KNOWN FOR HIS EXTRA BASE-HITS, AS THE 6TH BATTER.
7TH BATTER IS THE SKILLFUL HIRAI.
NO... THE SAME PRESSURE APPLIES TO THESE BATTERS...

LOOKING FORWARD TO TOMORROW?
YOUR OPPONENT IS SEIDOU, WHOM YOU FOUGHT IN LAST YEAR'S FINALS...
NARUMIYA-KUN, HOW'S YOUR CONDITION?
THEY CAN'T WIN WITHOUT GETTING ANY RUNS—
MY GOAL IS TO BE THE BEST IN JAPAN!
FOR NOW, WE HAVE TO SEIZE "THE BEST IN TOKYO"!
THERE IT IS, MEI-SAN'S BIG MOUTH!
SAYING THAT IS JUST DRIVING YOURSELF INTO A CORNER...
RELIEF CATCHER
TADANO ITSUKI
(1ST YEAR)
Oohh~

WHOOSH
RELIEF PITCHER
IGUCHI YUUDAI
(3RD YEAR)
I'M PITCHING A FAST-BALL!
ITSUKI!
AH, ALRIGHT!
WHOOSH!

NICE BALL!
YOUR PITCHING SPEED IS GOOD, IGUCHI-SAN!
ALTHOUGH HE PALES IN COMPARISON TO MEI-SAN... IGUCHI-SAN IS ALSO A GOOD PITCHER~~~
IF HE WERE ON THE OTHER TEAM, HE'D DEFINITELY BE THEIR ACE...
パン!
NICE BALL!
YOU'RE IN PERFECT CONDITION!
IMASA-SAN! LET'S GO TO THE BULLPEN TOO!!
HURRY!
WHY ARE YOU COMPETING AGAINST YOUR OWN TEAMMATE..

COACH KUNITOMO.
LAMF
AREN'T YOU THE ACE...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SARCASM.
I WON'T LOSE TO IGUCHI -SAN
RIGHT NOW, NARUMIYA-KUN IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE BEST IN KANTOU, BUT
THERE WAS A PERIOD WHEN HE DIDN'T APPEAR IN GAMES BECAUSE HE BROKE DOWN LAST FALL, RIGHT?
IS IT BECAUSE OF YOUR DEFEAT AT KOUSHIEN ...?

LAST SUMMER—
YKK
THE RELIEF PITCHER WHO PITCHED EXCELLENTLY IN THE 1ST AND 2ND ROUND.
Mei
Nakuraya
THE 1ST YEAR WHOSE NAME BEGAN TO BE NATIONALLY INFAMOUS.

HE WAS SENT TO THE MOUND IN THE 6TH INNING. FACING A SCORE OF 2-2 AT THE TOP OF THE 8TH.
一二三四五六七八
八代工 1100000
稲 実 0000020
THEN IN THE 3RD ROUND
1 OUT, RUNNER ON 3RD BASE.
IT'S NO USE WEARING THAT FACE...
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU'LL GO FOR A SQUEEZE PLAY!!

SEE, HERE IT COMES!
MASA -SAN!!

2

THE RESULT... THAT WAS THE DECIDING RUN OF THE MATCH. INASHIRO TECH BOWED OUT AFTER THE 3RD ROUND MATCH.
KNOWING THAT HIS OPPONENT WAS GOING FOR A SQUEEZE PLAY, HE BLUNDERED AND THREW A WILD PITCH.
...
AFTER THE GAME, NARUMIYA-KUN WAS CRYING OPENLY—...
HE CAUSED THE END OF HIS SENPAI'S SUMMER.

BUT DURING THAT PERIOD, IGUCHI WAS ABLE TO EVOLVE RAPIDLY.
INDEED AFTER THAT GAME IN KOUSHIEN, HIS FORM BROKE DOWN AND HE STARTED TO SUFFER..
ABOVE ALL THE 1ST YEAR KID WHO WAS BECOMING CONCEITED
WAS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE TERROR OF BASE-BALL.
!

IN OTHER WORDS, I THINK THAT IT'S A GOOD EXPERIENCE

EXPERI-ENCE ..

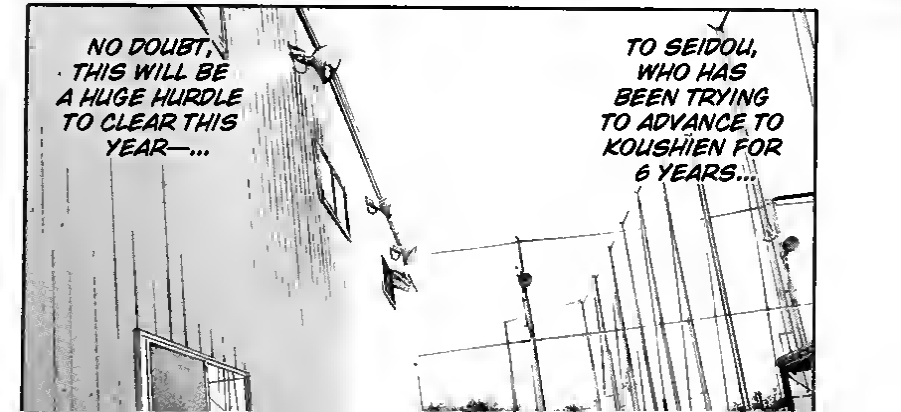
THIS IS THE BEST STAGE FOR BASEBALL PLAYERS
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE TO DISCOVER YOUR INABILITY TO DO SOMETHING, EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IT—

THESE WERE COACH KUNITOMO'S WORDS DURING AN INTERVIEW.
"THERE COULD BE NO BETTER PLACE THAN THAT STAGE TO INSPIRE THE GROWTH OF PLAYERS
IF POSSIBLE, I WANT TO BRING MY PLAYERS TO KOUSHIEN EVERY YEAR..."

LONG-AWAITED, 10 YEARS AGO, HE BECAME THE COACH FOR HIS ALMA MATER, INASHIRO TECHNICAL.
IN JUST 5 YEARS UNDER HIS COACHING, MAHARA HIGH FROM TOCHIGI ENTERED KOUSHIEN QUARTER-FINALS.

INCLUDING BOTH SPRING AND SUMMER TOURNAMENTS, THEY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN KOUSHIEN 14 TIMES.
EMPLOYED BY THE SCHOOL TO STRENGTHEN ITS BASEBALL CLUB,
PROFESSIONAL COACH
KUNITOMO HIROSHIGE
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR THEM TO PLAY AT KOUSHIEN.
THE PLAYERS ARE TRAINED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A COACH WHO PRODUCES RESULTS...
THE COACH DESIRES THE GROWTH OF HIS PLAYERS MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.

THIS IS THE TEAM OF INASHIRO TECHNICAL, A SCHOOL WITH TRADITION.
THIS HEIGHTENED AWARENESS AND PRIDE ARE INGRAINED IN EVERYONE ON THE TEAM.


NO DOUBT, THIS WILL BE A HUGE HURDLE TO CLEAR THIS YEAR—...
TO SEIDOU, WHO HAS BEEN TRYING TO ADVANCE TO KOUSHIEN FOR 6 YEARS...

CHAPTER 143 / EXPRESSED RESOLUTE

ISN'T THAT MACHINE SHOOTING CLOSE TO 150KMH?
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL HIT.
OHHH
A SOUTHPAW PITCHER WITH A MAX SPEED OF 140KMH.
IF THEY CANNOT HIT NARUMIYA-KUN'S FASTBALLS, THEY WON'T WIN.

SAKAI, YOU ARE STILL ONLY GRAZING THE BALL.
COMPLETE YOUR SWING!
GUH!
LISTEN UP! INCOMPLETE SWINGS WILL LET YOUR OPPONENT BUILD MOMENTUM!!
YES SIR!
EVEN IF YOU END UP STRIKING OUT, SWING YOUR BAT WITH ALL OF YOUR MIGHT!!
UHㅡ!!

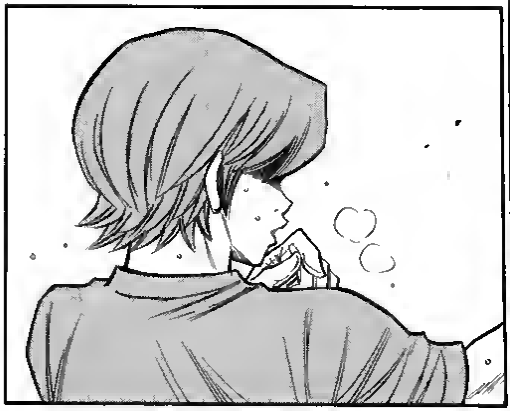
YOSH～
1 MILLI-METER!!
JUST 1 MM CLOSER!!
H...HE DID SWING HIS BAT COMPLETELY...
I WANT TO BE IN THE BULLPEN RIGHT NOW...
WOW～ FURUYA
AS EXPECTED, EVEN HIS BATTING IS GOOD

HARUCCHI !
Lucky guy
DAMN
SAWAMURA, BUNT!
!

T/N: SAWAMURA - CHAMPION OF BUNTS GOD! LORD I AM CRACKING UP ON THIS XD

THEY'RE MORE RELAXED THAN I THOUGHT THEY'D BE
WHETHER THEY LAUGH OR THEY CRY, THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE GAME.
SFX: WAHAHAHAHA
わはははは
WHY NOT BUNT FOR ALL YOUR AT-BATS?
W... WHAT?!
IT FEELS LIKE ALL THEY JUST HAVE TO DO IS PLAY THEIR BEST OUT THERE.
DAHAH～～ IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO WITNESS MY FORM...
THAT'S ENOUGH JUST KEEP PRACTICING BUNTS
SHO... SHOGUN!?

T/N: SHOGUN MEANS GENERAL. IT'S THE WAY SAWAMURA ADDRESSES THE COACH XD



...

DO YOUR BEST~
WE WILL SUPPORT YOU TOMORROW~~

WE'LL START FIELDING PRACTICE THIS AFTERNOON
ONCE YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR MEAL, ASSEMBLE HERE AT 1PM!!
YES SIR!

FURUYA
SAWAMURA

LUNCH AND MEETING!
YES!
YOU EVERY TIME...
LET'S LOOK AT INASHIRO'S DATA WHILE WE EAT.
ムフー
YEAH...
IT REALLY HELPS THAT TANBA-SAN ACTS AS THE LEADER AND GUIDES THE OTHER PITCHERS.
LAST NIGHT—
青心寮
THAT GUY UNDERSTANDS IT BEST...
THIS TEAM DEPENDS ON ALL 4 PITCHERS FOR VICTORY.

フォアボール
LOSING RUNS ARE OFTEN LINKED TO UNINTENTIONAL WALKS...
THIS APPLIES TO ALL MEMBERS... AS EXPECTED IT'S THE NUMBER OF WALKS.
KAWAKAMI'S OVER-CAUTIOUS PITCHING RESULTED IN WALKING 2 BATTERS..
フク
TANBA PITCHED CAREFULLY, BUT HIS CONTROL IS STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
DON'T RECKLESSLY LET THE RUNNERS GET ON BASE.
SAWAMURA ESPECIALLY MANY OF YOUR PITCHES ARE SENT FLYING INTO THE OUTFIELD.
SAWAMURA WALKED THE LEADING BATTER... CAUSING US TO LOSE RUNS.

SENT FLYING TO THE OUT-FIELD...
SHUT UP—!!
LISTEN TO ME, BAKA!
...
ALTHOUGH IT IS HARD TO GAUGE THE RELEASE POINT OF YOUR PITCHES,
THE SPEED AND POWER OF THE PITCHES DON'T INCREASE RAPIDLY.
YOU ARE STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH AS A PITCHER.

DESPITE BEING ASSIGNED THE ACE NUMBER, I WAS UNABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE FIRST ROUND.
..I..
THANKS TO ALL 3 PITCHERS
I CAN STAND ON THE MOUND AGAIN.

FOR THE GAME IN 2 DAYS

THE ONE STANDING ON THE MOUND IS THE ACE!
THAT'S THE FEELING WE SHOULD ALL EMBRACE DURING THE GAME!!

AS EXPECTED WE HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR THE OPPONENT'S 1ST AND 2ND BATTERS
YEAH... THEY MIGHT TRY TO PULL SOMETHING TO UNSETTLE US
OF COURSE, WE HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR THE CLEANUP'S EXTRA-BASE HITS, BUT...
THE MOST TERRIFYING THING ABOUT INASHIRO'S LINE-UP IS THEIR OB-SESSION FOR VICTORY.
DURING THE GAME WITH INASHIRO LAST YEAR
THE DECIDING FACTOR OF THE GAME WAS A SQUEEZE PLAY BY THE CLEANUP.
OB..OBSES-SION?
YEAH ...

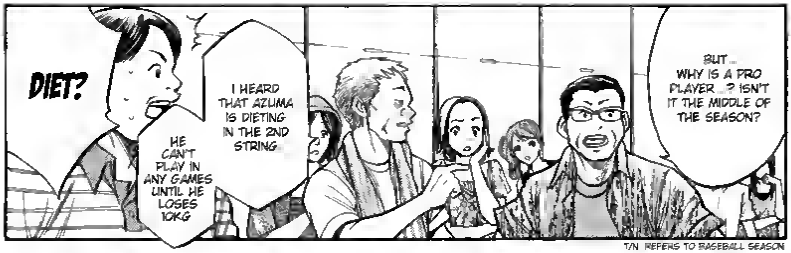
TO ENSURE THAT THEY GET A RUN FROM THE SQUEEZE PLAY BY THE 4TH BATTER...
ALL THE BATTERS, WITH THEIR STRONG PERSONALITIES, WORK TOGETHER TO SECURE THAT SINGLE CHANCE
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS A TEAM THAT KNOWS BEST OF HOW TO PLAY A GAME THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE...
ゴクッ

YOSH!
WE WILL PERFECT YOUR PITCHES IN THE BULLPEN LATER THIS AFTERNOON.
ANYWAY DON'T PITCH ANY RECKLESS WALKS!
I DEFINITELY WON'T MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE TEAM...
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW IS PITCH MY BEST—
FINALLY I GET TO PITCH—

WHAT IS IT, SAWAMURA!
LIKE YOU SAID, IT HAPPENED IN YESTERDAY'S GAME TOO...
OF COURSE WALKS ARE A PROBLEM,
BUT MY PITCHES STILL END UP BEING HIT TO THE OUTFIELD
I KNOW WE HAVE A GAME TOMORROW.
IT'S PROBABLY UNREASONABLE AND FOOLISH, BUT CAN I SAY IT!?
WHAT, HAVE YOU GONE WEAK AGAIN?
NO, I HAVEN'T!
what's with the "again"?

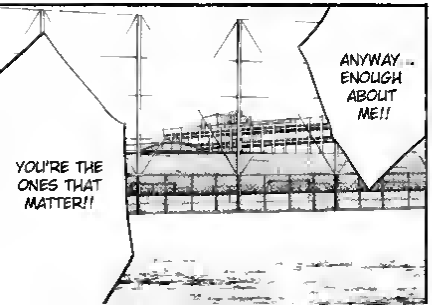
I... WANT TO LEARN A BREAKING BALL!
IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE
NOW... LET'S GET TO AFTERNOON PRACTICE
WAIT UP!

CHAPTER 144 / NOSTALGIC FACE


DIET?
I HEARD THAT AZUMA IS DIETING IN THE 2ND STRING...
HE CAN'T PLAY IN ANY GAMES UNTIL HE LOSES 10KG
BUT... WHY IS A PRO PLAYER...? ISN'T IT THE MIDDLE OF THE SEASON?

T/N: REFERS TO BASEBALL SEASON

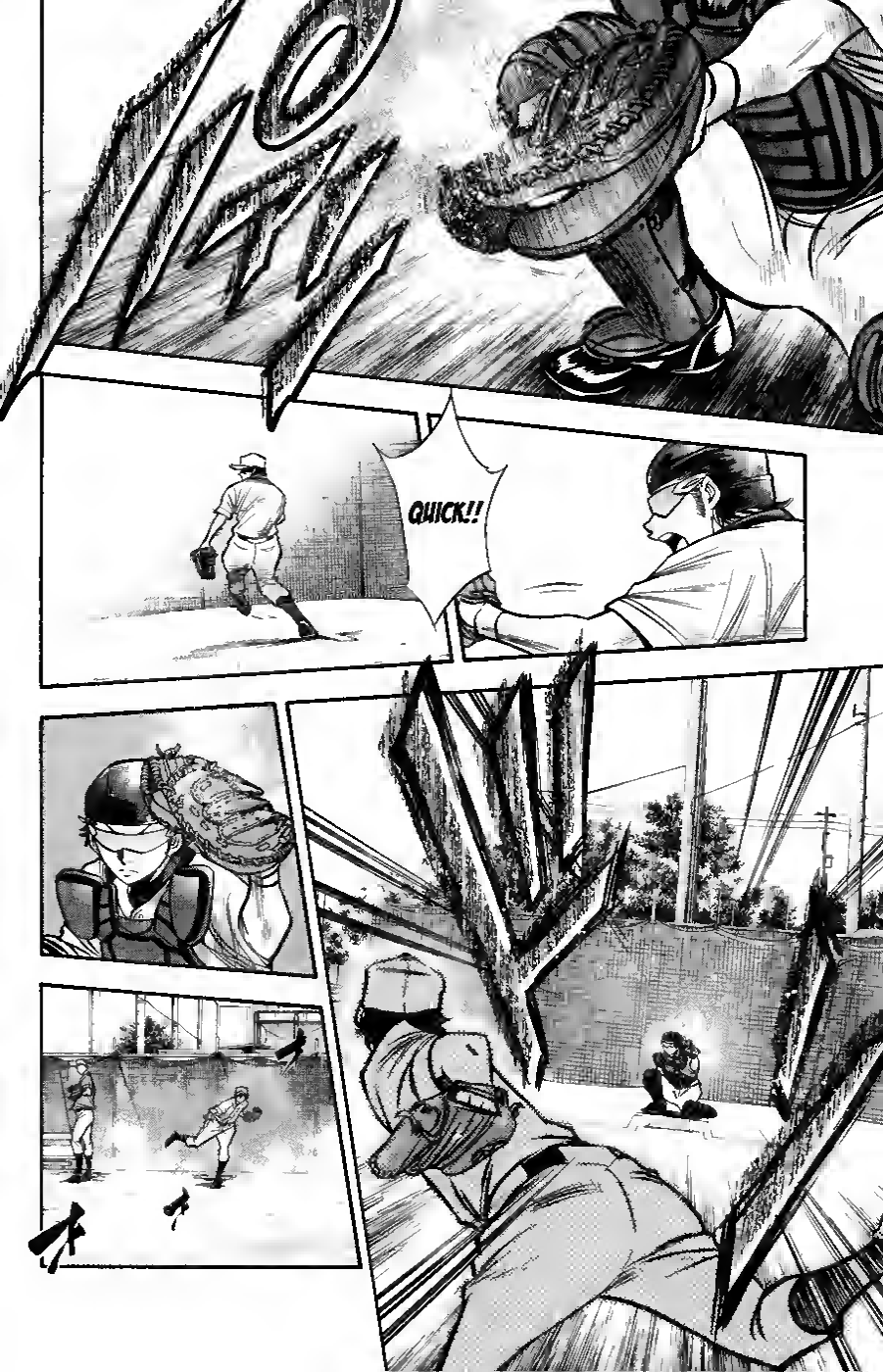
SHUT UP! IT'S ALL THE STRESS FROM PLAYING IN GAMES!!
AZUMA-SENPAI! DID YOUR BODY GET BIGGER?
WHY DID YOU GET FATTER AFTER YOU TURNED PRO?



THE DREAM THAT I WAS UNABLE TO REALIZE...
I NOW ENTRUST IT TO YOU ALL!!

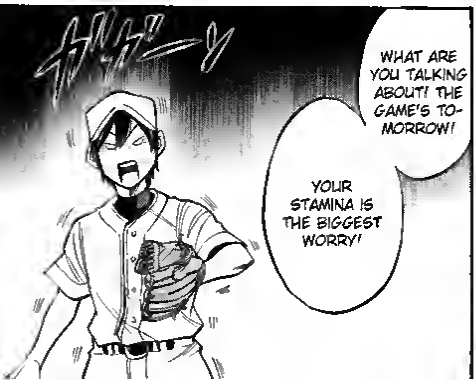
YOU WILL DEFINITE-LY GO TO KOSHIEN!
AZUMA -SENPAI ...
ニヤリ

パァン
NEXT! FORKBALL!!


QUICK!!

EH? IT'S OVER?
YOSH! MOVING ON

NOT BAD.
THE PITCH CAME LOW. HIS PITCH HAS POWER BECAUSE HE DIDN'T PLAY IN THE LAST GAME—


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! THE GAME'S TOMORROW!
YOUR STAMINA IS THE BIGGEST WORRY!

NICE BALL!
SOMETIMES HIS FAST-BALLS SEEM TO JUMP
YEAH
ゴゴ
ゴゴ
TANBA -SAN'S PITCHES ARE SHOWING SPEED...
RATHER THAN HIS PITCHES, THE BOOST IN HIS DETERMINATION TO MOVE FORWARD IS BETTER THAN ANYTHING ELSE...
IN THE LAST GAME HIS EASY PITCHES WERE HIT, BUT TANBA-SAN MUST HAVE REGAINED HIS CONFIDENCE FROM PITCHING THROUGH THE 5TH INNING...

FU
ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT'S WORRYING IS—
S... SORRY
JUST A LITTLE HIGHER!
OK, OK. PITCH A GOOD ONE!
ENTRUSTED WITH THE IMPORTANT POSITION OF CLOSER AND APPEARING IN EVERY GAME SO FAR...
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT KAWAKAMI IS THE MOST BURNED OUT MENTALLY—

IT COULD BE THAT HE IS TRYING TO KEEP HIS PITCHES LOW. HE'S BEING TOO CAUTIOUS IN HIS PITCHING.
EH!?
HIS PITCHES ARE LOW ENOUGH TODAY!
...
YEAH ...
IF YOU'VE COME SO FAR, INSTEAD OF SKILLS, IT'S YOUR FEELINGS...
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT, NORI...
THE KIND OF STRONG FEELING THAT YOU NEED TO HOLD ONTO ON THE MOUND

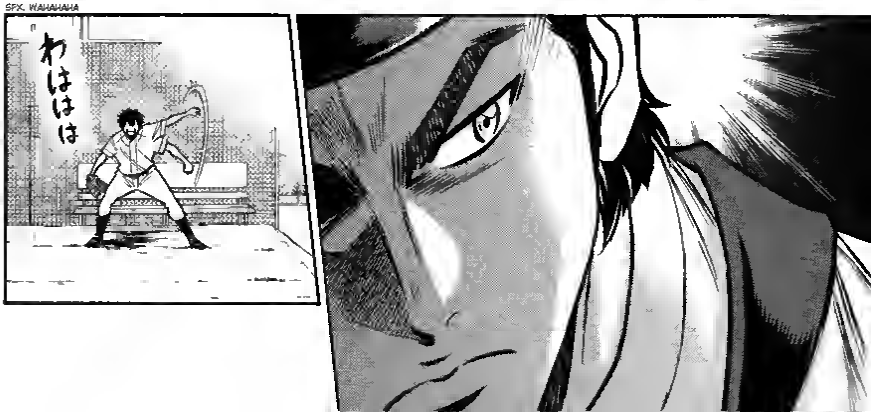
SHUUA TOP CONDITION —!!
SCARY! I AM SO SCARY!!
WHY ISN'T THE GAME TODAY—!!
WA HA HA
NO, NO... I WANTED TO PITCH TO THE CENTRE!
QUIT DOING UNNECESSARY STU...
HE'S SPIRITED! JUST SPIRITED!
YOUR PITCH IS A BIT OUTSIDE
YOU WANT IT TO BE HIT?

I... WANT TO LEARN A BREAKING BALL!
....
NEXT! 4-SEAM!
YES!

SEEMS LIKE HIS FORM HAS SOLIDIFIED...
BE HAPPY ABOUT IT!
NO-NO-NO, I AM STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
I'M SORRY FOR BEING IMMATURE!
NICE BALL, SAWAMURA!

CHRIS-SENPAI...
IT'S ABOUT WHAT SAWAMURA SAID EARLIER...
NO.
YEAH.
IF HE CAN LEARN A BREAKING BALL IN 1 DAY, I WOULD HAVE TAUGHT HIM A LONG TIME AGO.

SFX: WAHAHAHA



YOU... SAID YOU WANTED TO LEARN A BREAKING BALL?
WHAT?
SAWA-MURA!!
COME ON!
THEN WHAT KIND OF PITCH?
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. I'LL HEAR YOU OUT NEXT TIME.
HOLD-ING A GRUDGE
A CUTTER.
JUST NOW YOU WON'T EVEN HEAR ME OUT.

ERM...
A CUTTER IS A KIND OF BREAKING BALL RIGHT?
NOT A WILD PITCH, BUT INTENTIONALLY CAUSING THE BALL TO MOVE.
AN UNSTOPPABLE INSIDE CORNER PITCH THAT ENDS AS A GROUNDER WHEN HIT—

RIGHT NOW, EVEN THOUGH I HAVE MY PITCHES,
I THINK THAT IF MY PITCHES ARE HARDER TO HIT, THEY WON'T FLY ALL THE WAY TO THE OUTFIELD...
I SEE... SO THAT CAME FROM YAKUSHI'S SANADA...
...
—THAT'S WHAT... I THOUGHT
NOT BAD...
YOU'VE DONE WELL, SAWAMURA!

THE CROSSFIRE YOU PITCHED IN THE GAME YESTERDAY
THAT WAS ACTUALLY A CUTTER...
For real!?
EH!?

EVOLVING DURING YOUR GAMES ...
EH... YEAH...
SINCE YOU SAID YOU ALREADY HAVE AN IMPRESSION OF THAT PITCH,
RECALL YOUR FEELINGS FROM YESTERDAY AND SHOW ME THAT PITCH.
KANEMARU, GET INTO THE RIGHT BATTER BOX.
Y... YES!
EVENTUALLY I WILL BE LETTING YOU GO—
That was a cutter!
OI, OI...
AREN'T YOU THAT DAMN BRAT FROM THAT TIME
WHY ARE YOU IN THE BULLPEN?

COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE A BENCH WARMER?

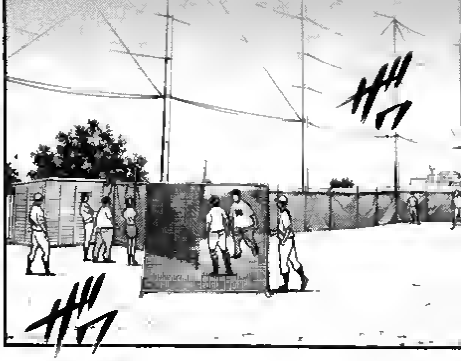
だっ!!

Y...
YOU ARE!!
DAIYA NO A
THE ONE THAT I ONCE COMPLETELY MINCED...
META-BOLIC -SENPAI.
ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT, YOU DAMN BRAT—
EH... WERE YOU THIS FAT?
META!!!

YOU MESS WITH ME AND I'LL SEND YOU BACK TO THE COUNTRYSIDE IN A CARDBOARD BOX!!
I DON'T REMEMBER
THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT YOU HATE OR DESPISE THE PRESTIGE!
DAMN YOU.
DAMN YOU!
DIDN'T YOU STILL ENROLL HERE IN THE END!
OH~~~~?
HUH?
AZUMA -SENPAI
WHA...
RIGHT NOW THAT GUY IS OUR VALUED FIRE-POWER!
WHAT?

CHAPTER 145 / COMPLETENESS

AZUMA-KUN AND SAWAMURA-KUN'S FACEOFF WAS 10 MONTHS AGO...



WH-WHAT THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS—
N-NO, HE'S JUST STANDING AT THE BATTER BOX—

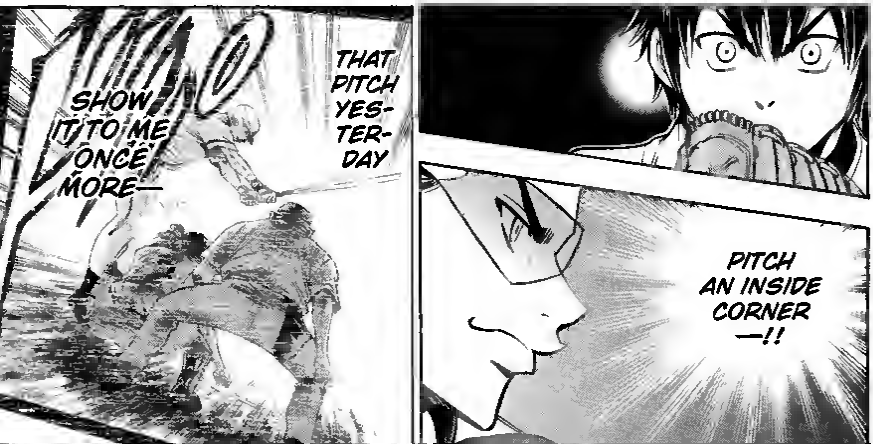
AH, ERM... YOU'D BETTER PUT THIS ON...
DON'T NEED IT! I CAN EVADE THIS GUY'S PITCHES EASILY!

RIGHT NOW, HOW DOES HE FARE IN AZUMA-KUN'S EYES—?
LEND ME YOUR BAT.
Y-Y... YES!

THEN PUT ON THE PROPER GEAR WHEN YOU'RE IN THE BATTER BOX!!
AZUMA
DID YOU NOT DECIDE TO MAKE A LIVING USING YOUR BODY?
YOU WANT TO SEE WHETHER HE CAN USE THAT PITCH IN A GAME?
YOU'LL CATCH FOR HIM
SUDDENLY BECOMING OBEDIENT
CHRIS -SENPA!
THIS IS YOUR DUTY AS THE MAIN CATCHER.

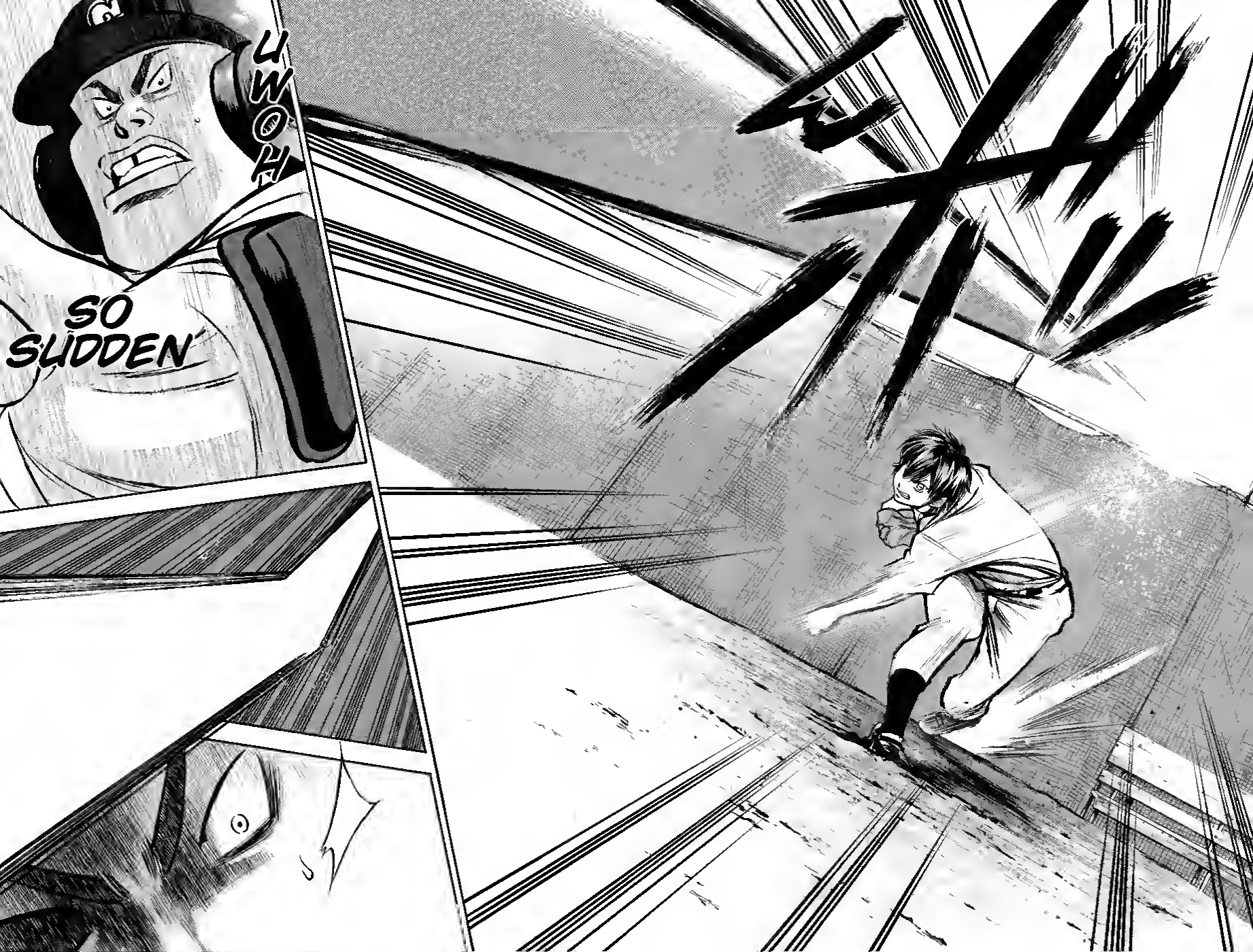
I WILL CONFIRM IT MYSELF.
WHETHER HE IS THAT KIND OF PERSON.
YOU...SAID THAT GUY IS VALUED FIRE-POWER...

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT—
THERE AREN'T MANY BATTERS LIKE AZUMA, WHO CAN INTIMIDATE SIMPLY BY STANDING IN THE BATTER BOX...


SHOW IT TO ME ONCE MORE—
THAT PITCH YES-TER-DAY
PITCH AN INSIDE CORNER —!!

THAT TIME, I JUST...
PITCHED A STRONG BALL TOWARD THE INSIDE CORNER—
OH...
WOOOO

YOU STEPPED TOO FAR IN...
OI, OI...
AT THIS RATE, YOU
CAN'T SWING YOUR WRIST FULLY—


UWOH
SO SUDDEN

IT MOVED ...
A... AZUMA -SENPAI ～～!!
グラウンド
ぼぉあ
GWOOOOOOあ
あ

A... ARE YOU ALRIGHT~?!
THE FLESH PROTRUDING FROM THE PROTEC-TOR~

BY USING HIS WHOLE BODY, THE SPEED OF HIS PITCH IN-CREASES, CAUS-ING IT TO CUT SHARPLY.
THE FLEXIBILITY OF HIS SHOUL-DER AND JOINTS ADDED TO THE SPIN OF HIS UPPER AND LOWER BODY.

THIS IS SAWA-MURA'S CUTTER.
THE... THE FEEL-ING JUST NOW...

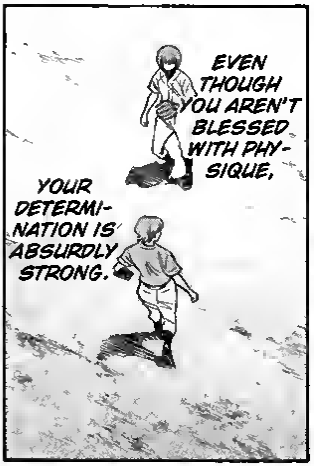
METABOLIC -SENPAI, CAN I KEEP PITCHING!?
PLEASE!
I DON'T WANT TO FORGET THE FEELING JUST NOW.
YOU IDIOT! APOLOGIZE TO ME FIRST!
I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU CALL ME METABOLIC AGAIN!
EVEN I CAN'T EVADE IT...
DAMN... IS THAT REALLY HIS PITCH?

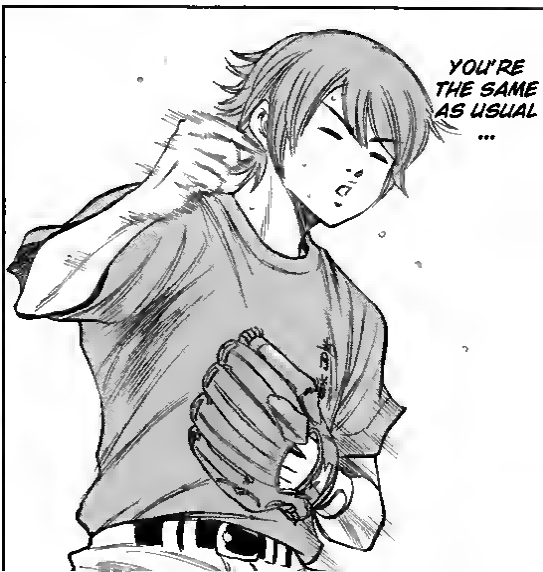
RYOU -SAN!
おぉー！
INCREDIBLY STEADFAST!!
AS EXPECTED OF THE IRON WALL COMBO!!
IS HE FOR REAL... THIS GUY...

RYOU -SAN
YOUR LEG...
DID YOU GET HURT DURING YOUR RUN FOR HOME BASE...
SO WHAT ?
HUH?
MY SHIN COLLIDED WITH THE CATCHER'S LEG GAURD
IT'S JUST A LITTLE SWOLLEN
... LITTLE
IT'S FINE WHEN THE GAME STARTS. MY ADRENALINE WILL START FLOWING
ANYBODY WOULD HIDE AN INJURY OF THIS NATURE

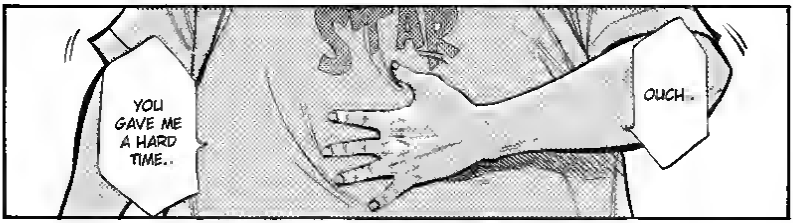
EVEN SO... IF YOU THINK THAT I'LL HOLD THE TEAM BACK BECAUSE OF THIS,
FEEL FREE TO REPORT IT TO THE COACH.
IF YOU, WHO TEAMED UP WITH ME FOR 1 YEAR, WERE TO REPORT ME,
THEN I'LL CONSENT TO IT—...

HA-HA...
おーい！


EVEN THOUGH YOU AREN'T BLESSED WITH PHYSIQUE,
YOUR DETERMINATION IS ABSURDLY STRONG.


YOU'RE THE SAME AS USUAL ...

ALTHOUGH WE ONLY DIFFER BY ONE YEAR, I REALLY RESPECT HIM...
Baka
As expected.
SINCE TEAMING UP WITH THIS PERSON, I'VE ALWAYS LEARNED FROM HIM...

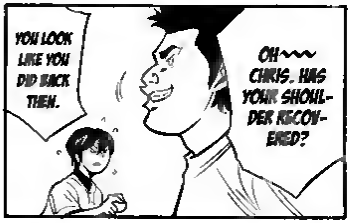

YOU GAVE ME A HARD TIME..
OUCH..

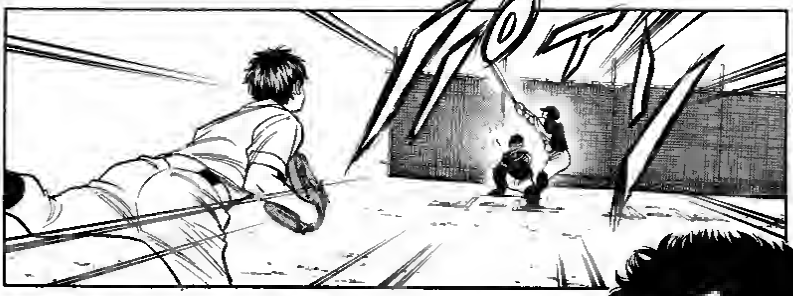
YOU'RE BAD AT DUCKING!
FROM NOW ON IT WILL BE HARD ON YOU

ISN'T IT GOOD THAT YOU'RE IN PROTECTIVE GEAR?
HE DIDN'T HOLD BACK ON HITTING ME REPEATEDLY...
That brat
ENOUGH OF THAT!!

AZUMA-SENPAI, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT? SAWAMURA'S PITCHES...

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU!
PLEASE LEND ME YOUR GUID-ANCE!


OH~~~ CHRIS. HAS YOUR SHOULD-DER RECOV-ERED?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DID BACK THEN.


HOT!

YO!!
BUT HE IS STILL UN-POLISHED!

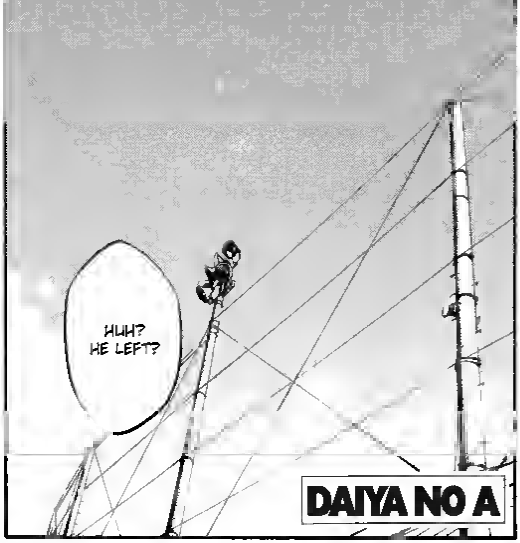
INDEED HIS PITCHES ARE INTEREST-ING. HE'S LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON FROM ONE YEAR AGO

FRANKLY... I CAN'T IMAGINE THE SIGHT OF HIM BEING ENTRUSTED WITH THE ACE NUMBER.
IDIOT!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN YOUR CURRENT 3RD YEARS ARE AWFUL.
THAT'S HARSH.
WELL IN AZUMA-SENPAI'S PERSPECTIVE EVERYONE ELSE IS ♪
NO NO... THEY WERE REALLY BAD EVEN AT THE BEGINNING.
WELL, CHRIS IS THE EXCEPTION
EXCEPT FOR YOU, THE REST ARE TRASH!
…HUH?

IN THE END, HOW MUCH THEY'RE ABLE TO TRULY GROW DEPENDS ON THEMSELVES.
...
TELL THAT TO THE DAMN BRAT.
AND IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO GROW AS WELL.

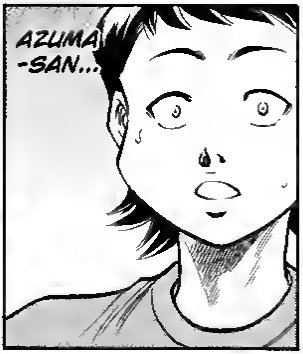
YEAH. HE SAID HI.
I DIDN'T APOLOGIZE FOR HITTING HIM.

KAWAKAMI, FOR YOU.

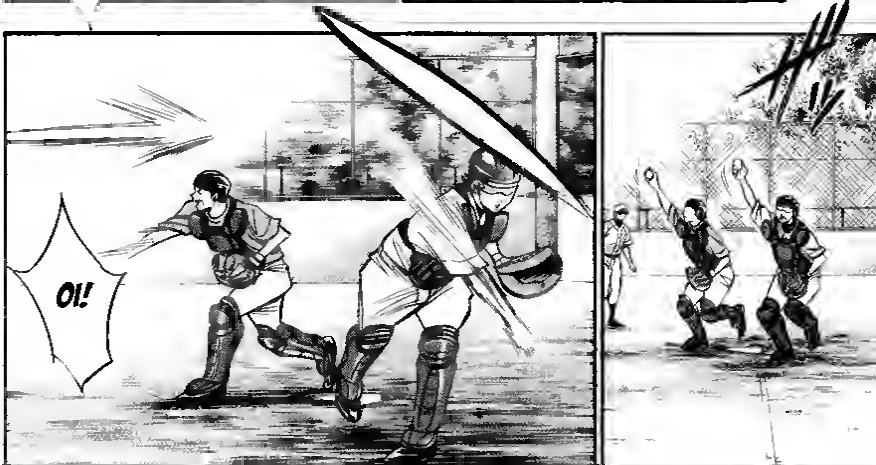

HUH? HE LEFT?
DAIYA NO A

KAWAKAMI IS A GOOD PITCHER, SO PITCH WITH MORE CONFIDENCE!!
I ONLY YELL AT THE GUYS I'M MINDFUL OF...

MIYUKI! GIVE THE PITCHERS A PROPER STRETCH AND END THIS!!
YES SIR!!


AZUMA -SAN...

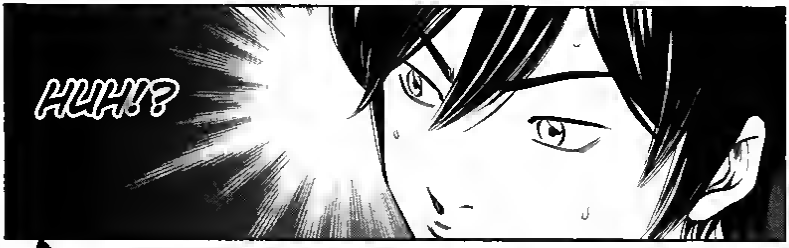
T/N: FIELDING PRACTICE OR FUNGO



SHH!
OI!
HERE!!
HAH!!
SHAA!
SHAAA!
NOW~
HERE!

EXCEPT FOR YOU, THE REST ARE TRASH!
ONLY CHRIS IS THE EXCEPTION
...
TRASH...
THESE GUYS ARE...!?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE AZUMA-KUN?
ALTHOUGH IT'S PROBABLY EXPECTED, SINCE YOU ONLY KNOW THEM AS 3RD YEARS
WHAT HE SAID WAS THE TRUTH...

TN: LEAN YEAR MEANS THE YEAR WHEN THE CROPS ARE BAD. ANALOGY FOR SHOWING HOW BAD/UNTALENTED THEY USED TO BE



CHAPTER 146 / OUR FUTURE

2 YEARS AGO — SPRING

ISASHIKI JUN FROM AYAKAMI SENIOR LEAGUE.
DESIRED POSITION IS PITCHER, OF COURSE.
THE PITCHER I ADMIRE THE MOST IS NOMO HIDEO.
SORRY !!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT.
CAN'T I DO THAT?
What're you all looking at?!!
THIRD BASEMAN IS...
THE FIRST BASEMAN I LIKE IS OCHIAI HIROMITSU
SECOND BASEMAN IS NISHI TOSHIHISA
WAIT WAIT, ARE YOU GOING THROUGH ALL THE POSITIONS?

LOUDER!!
Even though you're so tall!
— FROM MIDDLE TANBA, ROU
I GAINED 10KG DUE TO EXAMS!
MASUKO TOORU FROM OOURA EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL.
DESIRED POSITION, IN-FIELDER!
DEFINITELY WON'T LOSE TO THOSE WITH ONLY A LARGE PHYSIQUE.
DESIRED POSITION, IN-FIELDER.
KOMINATO RYOUSUKE FROM YOUKOU MIDDLE SCHOOL.
NO PREFERRED POSITION.
I CAN FIELD FROM ANY POSITION.
YUUKI TETSUYA FROM AKADOU MIDDLE SCHOOL.

WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY TRYING TO CRACK A JOKE?
hahaha
interesting...
I DIDN'T ASK FOR THAT.
THE HISTORICAL DRAMA I LIKE IS KOZURE OOKAMI
TETSU-NII: GOOD TV TAIGA, PRETTY GOOD MOVIES, BUT AWESOME MANGA!! LWSC FTW!!! XP
T/N: HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/LONG_WOLF_AND_CUB
TAKIGAWA CHRIS YUU FROM MARUGAME SENIOR LEAGUE.
DESIRED POSITION IS CATCHER.
OH, SO HE'S THE RUMOURED ROOKIE.
THE SON OF THAT ANIMAL?
T/N: "ANIMAL" IS CHRIS'S DAD'S NICKNAME

HMPH... WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?!!
CHRIS IS... THAT...
I WILL BE THE FIRST ONE TO BECOME A REGULAR !!
HEY YOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!!
SORRY!!
WHO TOLD YOU TO LEAVE THE LINE!?
GET BACK!

UWOOHH～～
HOW ABOUT THAT! MY BA-ZOOKA PITCH!!
IT DIDN'T EVEN CROSS THE STRIKE ZONE YOU MORON!
HIS JOINTS ARE STRONG, BUT...
WITH THAT CONTROL HE CAN'T BE A PITCHER...

AH...
SORRY.
DON'T APOLOGIZE EVERY SINGLE TIME TANBA!
YOUR PITCHES AREN'T BAD COMPARED TO THE GUY NEXT TO YOU!!
AH, RIGHT...
SORRY
ポフッ
ペフッ
WHAT'S WITH FIELDING FROM ALL THE POSITIONS?! YUUKI～!!!
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GLOVE!
...
YOU CAN'T FIELD FROM ANY POSITION!

MIYAUCHI~ YOU NEED TO TRAIN YOUR MUSCLES OR ELSE YOU'LL BE SENT FLYING BY THE RUNNERS!
CONSUME MORE PROTEIN!
YOUR UNIFORM DOESN'T FIT.
IT'S FINE, I'LL DEVELOP A BODY THAT FITS INTO THIS!
GET REAL!
M-MASUKO, HOW MANY BOWLS IS THAT?!
munch
munch
YOU STOP EATING!
OI, FIRST YEARS! THERE ARE STILL BALLS LYING AROUND!!
PICK THEM UP PROPERLY!!
ARE THEY GONNA'BE ALRIGHT, THESE KIDS...

.. D/MN, MOVING HURTS.
MY PROBLEM IS DEFENSE.
DAMN... LET ME PITCH NOW!
FIRST, LOOK INTO THEIR EYES AND TALK...
... M- MEAT BLIN... RED MEAT BLIN...
YOUR GENERATION IS FULL OF GREEN-HORNS!
IT'LL BE TOUGH ON YOU FROM HERE ON~~~
OI, CHRIS!
GAHAH AHA!!!

THERE'S NO FUTURE FOR THEM...
THESE GUYS ARE NO GOOD...
IS THAT SO...
gahaha

IF ONE WANTS TO PLAY BASEBALL IN HIGH SCHOOL, IT HAS TO BE ON A TEAM WITH HOPES OF GETTING TO KOSHIEN...
HAH —!
SHAA —!

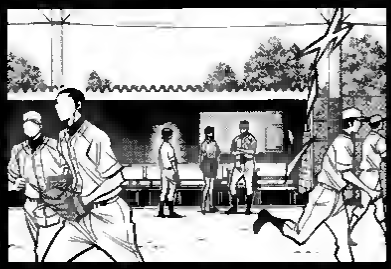
GET INTO THE DUGOUT IN THE FIRST YEAR AND A SPOT AS A STARTER IN THE SECOND YEAR.
NICE PLAY!
IN THE THIRD YEAR BECOME THE MAIN POWER AND PLAY IN KOSHIEN.
EVERYONE HAS THAT AMBITION...
DAMN... THIS GUY...
... AND ALSO SOME WORRIES.

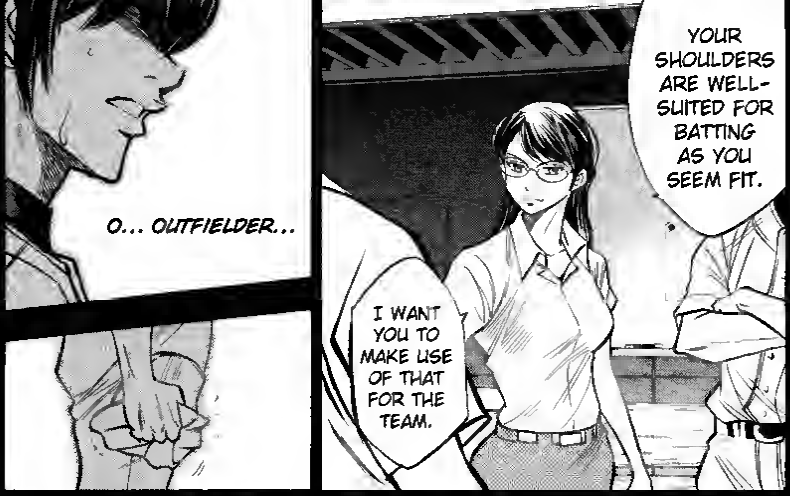
DAMN... THIS GUY...
ARE YOU AN IDIOT, DOING SOMETHING TO TIRE YOURSELF MORE...
HUH?
THIS IS WHEN BASEBALL PLAYERS ARE TRIED—
WAIT UP!
DON'T YOU DARE RUN IN FRONT OF ME!

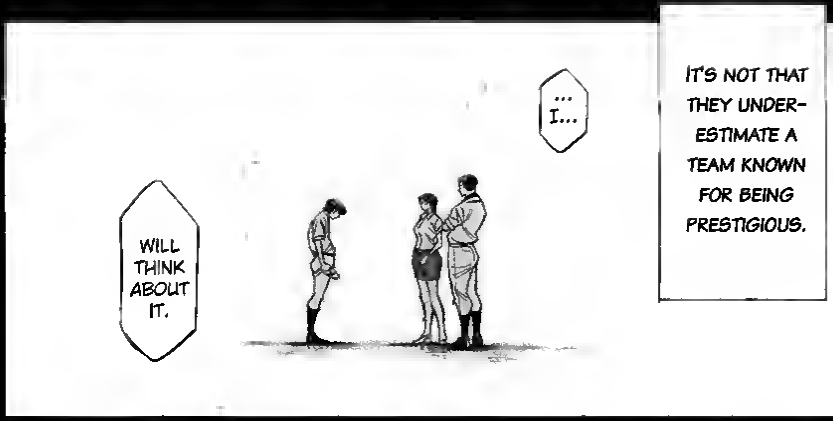
GAME OVER—!
TM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 R H E
SEIDOU 0 1 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 4 8 1
ICHIDAI 1 0 0 1 2 0 1 0 5 9 0
ダイヤのA

4-5. SEIDOU HIGH FAILED TO MAKE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS...
THE ONE TO ADVANCE TO THE SEMIFINALS IS THEIR LONG-TIME RIVAL, ICHIDAI 3RD HIGH.
S... SENPAI
LOST.

Chapter 147 / Footsteps towards the Future




O... OUTFIELDER...
I WANT YOU TO MAKE USE OF THAT FOR THE TEAM.
YOUR SHOULDERS ARE WELL-SUITED FOR BATTING AS YOU SEEM FIT.


IT'S NOT THAT THEY UNDER-ESTIMATE A TEAM KNOWN FOR BEING PRESTIGIOUS.
...I...
WILL THINK ABOUT IT.

EVEN SO, IT INCREA-SES—
THE GAP BETWEEN IDEAL AND ACTUAL—
PANT
PANT
ARE YOU AL-RIGHT SAKAI.

AT THIS POINT, YOU CAN COME TO A STAND-STILL
OR YOU CAN MOVE FOR-WARD——
IT'S NO GOOD... I CAN'T GO ON.
ぐいっ
ISA...

YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE
WHO'S IN AGONY.
ONLY BY MOVING FORWARD CAN THEY SURVIVE.

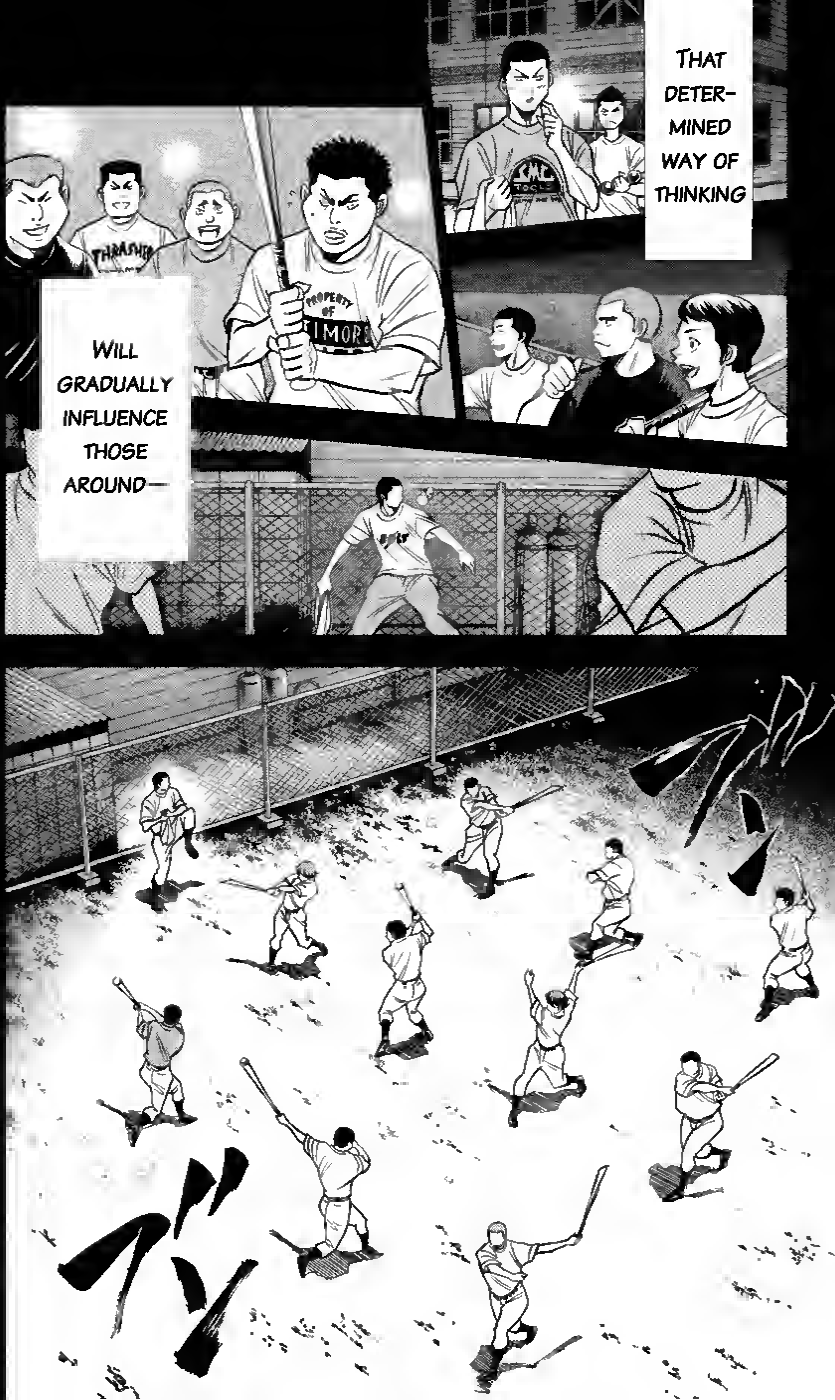
WHAT ARE YOU DOING! KEEP YOUR HIPS DOWN!
IF YOU CAN'T CATCH IT WITH YOUR GLOVE, STOP IT WITH YOUR BODY!!
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!!
STOP LOOKING AROUND!
CONCEN-TRATE ON PITCHING WHEN YOU'RE ON THE MOUND!!

UWA~~ COACH IS STRICTER THAN USUAL.
THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
THE NEW TEAM IS MADE UP OF THESE NO-GOOD 1ST YEARS.
NOT ENOUGH FOCUS!
ANYONE WITHOUT THE MOTIVATION CAN LEAVE RIGHT NOW!

I WON'T ...
I WON'T LET IT END LIKE THIS.
IF THAT'S THE WAY TO SURVIVE, I'LL CLING TO IT—...
ANYTHING. EVEN THE OUTFIELD IS FINE...
YUUKI...?

COULD IT BE YOU STAYED AFTER TO PRACTICE EVERY DAY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT...
DON'T YOU HAVE TO TURN IN?
FOR REAL!?
300 AT SCHOOL... 200 AT HOME...
WHAT!? 500 SWINGS A DAY!!?
THIS GUY—...
IF I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP, I WON'T SURVIVE HERE.
THAT'S THE QUOTA I SET WHEN I DECIDED TO COME TO THIS SCHOOL

INDEED. EVERYONE WHO COMES HERE HAS THAT KIND OF DETERMINATION...
ONCE MY BODY GETS USED TO IT, I'M THINKING OF INCREASING...
DON'T INCREASE IT!
Sob...
MIND IF WE JOIN YOU?
SIGH... PAI'S SNORING IS TOO LOUD...
KO-MI-NA-TO...
MA-SU-KO...
TO BECOME BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.


THAT DETER-MINED WAY OF THINKING
WILL GRADUALLY INFLUENCE THOSE AROUND—
THRASHER
PROPERTY OF
TIMOR
SMC
TOCS
ザッ

...
LOOKS LIKE THEY GATHERED AFTER THE UPPERCLASSMEN'S SELF-PRACTICE SESSIONS
HM? HAVE YOU GOTTEN TALLER?
YOU SLIMMED DOWN?
RUSTY
THE COMING-TOGETHER OF TEAMMATES WHO MOTIVATE ONE ANOTHER
...
THE DAILY SWINGS ACCUMULATED.

HARD WORK IS NOT A LIE—...

*T/N: Literal translation is "backscreen".

THAT GUY REALLY DID IT!
HITTING HIS FIRST HOME RUN FOR HIS FIRST AT-BAT THE FIRST TIME HE PLAYED AS A STARTER!
AMAZING, TETSU —!!
HIS HARD WORK PAID OFF!
NICE BAT, TETSU!
WHAT'S WITH THE MODEST GUTS POSE!?
YUUKI HIT A HOMERUN IN THE PRACTICE GAME—
WE WON'T LOSE TO YOU!
DAMN YOU, TETSU!

IN MY OPINION, THEY WERE JUST AS OVERJOYED AS IF THEY WERE THE ONES WHO HIT IT.
HE DID HIS BEST BECAUSE HE WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE OTHERS.
PLAYERS WITH STRONG HEARTS ARE GATHERING, THIS GENERATION.
STRONG HEARTS—...
OUTFIELDER, BACK HOME
I SEE...
THAT'S RIGHT...

IT'S NOT THAT THESE GUYS WERE STRONG FROM THE START—
HAH —!!
HERE!
SHAA!
THEY'VE COME ALL THIS WAY
THANKS TO THE HARD WORK THEY'VE PUT IN...

ORAAAA
INFIELDER, BACK HOME!!
WE—

STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN FROM THESE PEOPLE—...
TO
CATCH-ER!!

ONCE MORE...
TO THIS FIELD ON WHICH WE HAVE SPENT 3 YEARS TOGETHER...
THEN
WE WILL GIVE IT EVERY-THING WE'VE GOT...
HAS BEEN DONE
WHAT CAN BE DONE

18巻につづく

—STAFF—

栗栖正義　河端美穂子

山田聡子　齋藤優作　林本勇気

—SPECIAL THANKS—

小須田知子

—EDITOR—

KIICHIRO SUGAWARA
MASAKATSU MINO
SHUJI SATO

連載当初からの担当の三野さんが抜けることになりました。
原稿で手いっぱいの時、自分の代わりに資料写真を撮ってきてくれたり、
いろいろ助けてもらいました。上がった原稿を見せた時、
「すげー」とか「かっこいー」とか言ってくれるのは、
やっぱ素直に嬉しかったな‥‥。（あんまり表情には出さなかったけど‥）
本当にお世話になりました！　寺嶋裕二

あとお手紙くれた方々、ありがとうございます！　いつも勇気づけられてます!!
この漫画を読んで、野球を始めたという手紙には泣きそうになりました。

照りつける日差しの下、
高まる熱気と緊張感――!!

いよいよ始まる決勝戦――。

すべての準備は整った。

ダイヤのA Ace of Diamond

第18巻予告

甲子園に連れていってやりたい。

夢の舞台まであと一つ。

青
青
青
カルロス!!
SHIRO

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

なお、お送りいただいたお手紙、おハガキにご記入いただいた郵便番号、住所、氏名などをふくんだ個人情報を、著者の先生にお渡しすることがありますので、ご了解のうえでお手紙をお送りください。

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